

SITUATION REPORT NO. 16
INCIDENT NO. 2002-009
DATE: August 29, 2002 TIME: 4:15 p.m.

TO: Governor John Hoeven
State Capitol
Bismarck, ND 58505

1. NATURE OF DISASTER: Severe Summer Storms, Flooding - Severe thunderstorms have produced heavy rain, gusty winds, hail and flooding.
2. DEATHS AND INJURIES: Thus far, a total of five injuries, due to summer storm activity, have been reported to the State Emergency Operations Center (EOC).
3. DAMAGES: In Renville County on August 26, hail broke approximately 60 windows and caused severe roof damage to the Glenburn School. School personnel removed the debris.

In Walsh County, Homme Dam releases were less than anticipated. Park River levels at Grafton are currently 10.5 feet; and crest levels between 11 and 11.5 feet are predicted to occur on August 30; flood stage is 12 feet. The Forest River levels at Minto are currently 2.23 feet; flood stage is six feet.

Late afternoon and into the evening of August 28, the Wahpeton area was pounded by strong winds, nickel-size hail, and heavy rainfall between two and eight inches. Wahpeton officials indicated heavy street flooding and that some businesses encountered seepage due to wake action caused by traffic movement. The Richland County Courthouse received water damage.

Officials from Cass County indicated thunderstorms accompanied by high winds moved southeast from the Wheatland to Davenport and traveled east through Horace. Pea size hail was reported in the Horace area. Approximately one and one half to three inches of precipitation occurred with heavier amounts recorded south of Fargo. Minor street flooding occurred in Fargo.

Emergency Management officials in McIntosh County reported the city of Ashley received one and one half inches of rain in one hour on August 28.

In Dickey County, heavy rains and a tornado five miles west of Merricourt were reported.

The United States Department of Agriculture issued a Flash Situation Report indicating excessive rain, wind and hail in Cavalier County on August 27-28 affected 1,500 farms and caused crop losses between 7 and 35 percent on 511,490 acres. The report for Renville County indicated high winds produced crop losses between 60 and 100 percent on 29,500 acres among 52 farms.

On August 28, the level of Devils Lake measured 1,447.20 feet and Stump Lake measured 1,413.71 feet.

4. RESOURCES:

LOCAL: No change from previous reports.

STATE: No change from previous reports.

FEDERAL: No change from previous reports.

5. VOLUNTEER ACTIONS: Both the Red River Chapter of the American Red Cross and the Salvation Army have delivered kits for use by impacted residents of the city of Park River. On August 30, the American Red Cross will establish a Service Center in the conference room of the Park River Auditor's Office.

The United Methodist Committee on Relief, the local Mennonite community, and school students have volunteered to assist in clean-up efforts in Park River.

6. MAJOR ACTIONS: The North Dakota Department of Human Services has dispatched an individual to work with people involved with the Park River Senior Citizen Nutrition Program to determine those individuals who are physically unable to complete clean-up efforts and therefore, require assistance.

In southwest Pembina County, Public Works personnel closed two township roads due to inundation from flowing water.

7. ASSISTANCE NEEDED: None requested at this time.

8. OUTSIDE HELP ON SCENE: Personnel from NoDak Electric Cooperative repaired two power poles east of Grafton. In Wahpeton, Ottertail Power repaired broken lines damaged by a downed tree.

9. OTHER: Two human cases of West Nile Virus have tested positive and samples have been sent to the Centers of Disease Control for confirmation. Thus far, 320 cases of Equine West Nile Virus have been confirmed in 49 North Dakota counties. Currently, 23 birds have tested positive.

Appropriate state, local and private entity emergency operations plans and procedures have been implemented.

Situation Reports published by North Dakota Emergency Management are posted on the Division's Internet home page. The address is <http://www.state.nd.us/dem>.

Douglas C. Friez, State Director